

## **Jon Cowart, Shuttle Program, Ares I-X Deputy Mission Manager NASA Kennedy Space Center**

Jon was born on December 16, 1958 in Mobile, Alabama. He graduated from Georgia Tech in 1983 with a Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering degree and an Air Force commission.

Lieutenant Cowart was assigned to the 6595th Shuttle Test Group at Vandenberg AFB, California where he worked as an engineer building a Space Shuttle launch pad. He resigned his commission as a captain in 1987 to join NASA.

He became a project engineer on the Space Shuttle Orbiter Atlantis. 1993, Jon was chosen to participate in the Space Station Redesign and received the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal.

Jon was then named the Chief Engineer for the Orbiter Discovery. In 1997 he was named as the Space Station Flight 2A Mission Manager. Flight 2A was the first U.S. launched component of the International Space Station. These components were launched in December, 1998.

Jon was then assigned as the Mission Manager for U.S. Laboratory Module, named Destiny, and the Airlock. As the Mission Manager, Jon was responsible for all of the acceptance testing, outfitting, testing, and final preparation for flight of these two elements of the International Space Station launched on Shuttle missions in 2001.

In 2007, Jon took on a new challenge in the Constellation Project Office at KSC as the senior project manager responsible for all modifications to the pad, VAB, and MLP for the new Ares I-X rocket, which is scheduled for launch in summer 2009. And in 2008, Jon was named Deputy Mission manager for Ares I-X.